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**Testimony in Support of
S.B. No. 318, 'An Act Concerning Private School Transportation'**

Before the Education Committee

March 2, 2016

As a *teacher* at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in Fairfield Connecticut, I support S.B. No. 318.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic school is an amazing school that strives for academic excellence in a faith-filled environment that encourages children to reach their full potential and to become life long learners.

A Catholic School education should be available to all children, regardless of economics status or demographic location. In order to continue to provide education to the children of Connecticut transportation is a necessity.

As a resident and tax payer of Fairfield, I rely on bussing to get two of my children to and from school. Without the access to bussing, I would not be able to be full time working mother. Access to bussing also allows and is critical to keeping our urban schools open.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support S.B. No. 318.

Sincerely,

Noelle Fern